REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendment and remarks.

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated essentially that the meaning of "the group is one of at least two messaging operations, and at least one messaging operation and at least one transactional operation" is not clear. Respectfully, Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to reject claim 1, rather than claims 1-16, because the cited limitation appears only in claim 1.

The claimed limitation is believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The limitation can be read as "the group is one of A and B", wherein A is at least two messaging operations and B is at least one messaging operation and at least one transactional operation. To advance the prosecution of the case, claim 1 has been amended to adopt the Examiner's proposed language of "the group is one of at least two messaging operations, or at least one messaging operation and at least one transactional operation," which is believed to have the same meaning as the originally claimed limitation. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lamping et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,593) in view of Bowman-Amuah (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,244). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Lamping and Bowman-Amuah teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1-49.

Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, "initiating a context grouping the operations, wherein the group is one of at least two messaging operations, or at least one messaging operation and at least one transactional operation; performing the operations within the context, each operation resulting in an outcome; combining the outcomes; determining an overall outcome based on a combination of the outcomes for each operation; and taking at least one action dependent on the overall outcome." Claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, "initiating a context grouping the operations; performing the operations within the context, each operation resulting in an outcome; combining the outcomes; determining an overall outcome based on a combination of the outcomes for each operation; and taking an action dependent on the overall outcome." Claim 33 claims, *inter alia*, "initiating a group context including a sub-context for each operation in the group context, wherein each operation is supported by one of a transactional resource and a messaging component; performing the operations within the sub-contexts, each operation resulting in an outcome; coupling the outcomes within the group context; determining an overall outcome of the group context; and taking at least one action dependent on the overall outcome."

It is impermissible for the Examining attorney to use hindsight in choosing citations which, when grouped together, appear to anticipate the application. Multiple cited prior art references must suggest the desirability of being combined, and the references must be viewed without the benefit of hindsight afforded by the disclosure. The Examiner has chosen a multitude of references, apparently in hindsight, to reject claims 1-49. However, each reference relates to an entirely different art. For example, Lamping teaches techniques suitable for producing, from a source code program, a compiled program that is optimized with respect to the organization of loop constructs therein (see col. 1, lines 4-9), and Bowman-Amuah teaches methods for batching logical requests for reducing network traffic (see col. 2, lines 16-26). Given the different fields of

the references, e.g., code optimization, and network communications, and the lack of a suggestion or motivation to combine the references, these references are not believed to be combinable. Even when viewed together, the cited references do not render the Applicants' invention obvious. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

At least claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 33, and 34 are believed to be allowable for additional reasons.

Referring to claims 1, 16, and 33, Lamping teaches techniques suitable for producing, from a source code program, a compiled program that is optimized with respect to the organization of loop constructs therein (see col. 1, lines 4-9). Lamping teaches generating a software program that includes a combined operation implementing a specified combination of a first and second operation (see col. 3, lines 16-21). Lamping does not teach or suggest "performing the operations within the context, each operation resulting in an outcome; combining the outcomes; determining an overall outcome based on a combination of the outcomes for each operation; and taking an action dependent on the overall outcome" as claimed in claims 1 and 16, or "performing the operations within the sub-contexts, each operation resulting in an outcome; coupling the outcomes within the group context; determining an overall outcome of the group context; and taking at least one action dependent on the overall outcome" as claimed in claim 33. Lamping combines operations. Operations are not outcomes, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 16, and 33. Thus, Lamping does not teach or suggest combining the outcomes, much less determining an overall outcome based on a combination, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 16, and 33.

Bowman-Amuah teaches methods for batching logical requests for reducing network traffic (see col. 2, lines 16-26). Bowman-Amuah teaches that logically-related requests received from a logical unit of work are grouped into a single network message (see col. 301, liens 43-45

and Figure 185). Bowman-Amuah does not teach or suggest "performing the operations within the context, each operation resulting in an outcome; combining the outcomes; determining an overall outcome based on a combination of the outcomes for each operation; and taking an action dependent on the overall outcome" as claimed in claims 1 and 16, or "performing the operations within the sub-contexts, each operation resulting in an outcome; coupling the outcomes within the group context; determining an overall outcome of the group context; and taking at least one action dependent on the overall outcome" as claimed in claim 33. Bowman-Amuah teaches the bundling of replies (see col. 301, lines 53-55). The bundling of replies does not teach or suggest determining an overall outcome based on a combination, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 16, and 33. The bundle of replies represents a plurality of individual replies that are unpackable (see col. 2, lines 16-29) and do not teach or suggest an overall outcome. Therefore, Bowman-Amuah does not teach or suggest an overall outcome. Bowman-Amuah fails to cure the deficiencies of Lamping. Thus, the combined teachings or Lamping and Bowman-Amuah fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1, 16, and 33.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1. Claims 17-32 depend from claim 16. Claims 34-49 depend from claim 33. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for independent claims 1, 16, and 33, respectively. At least claims 2, 17, and 34 are believed to be allowable for additional reasons.

Claims 2 and 17 claim, *inter alia*, "terminating the context upon taking the action" and claim 34 claims, *inter alia*, "terminating the group context upon taking one or more actions."

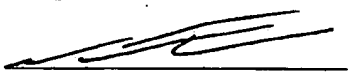
Lamping teaches terminating flow paths from state variable nodes (see col. 9, lines 30-34). Lamping does not teach or suggest terminating a context upon taking an action, essentially as claimed in claims 2, 17, and 34. The termination of the flow paths does not occur upon taking an

action. The termination of the flow path of the state variable node occurs at an iterated value or with the termination of test inputs (see col. 9, lines 30-33). The iterative value of Lamping is not an action. Further, the termination of test inputs of Lamping is not an action as claimed in claims 2, 17, and 34, wherein an action is dependent on an overall outcome (see claims 1, 16, and 33). Therefore, Lamping fails to teach or suggest terminating a context upon taking an action, essentially as claimed in claims 2, 17, and 34. Accordingly Lamping fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 2, 17, and 34.

Bowman-Amuah teaches batching logical requests for reducing network traffic (see col. 2, lines 16-26). Bowman-Amuah teaches that logically-related requests received from the logical unit of work are grouped and unpackaged at a point across a network (see col. 2, lines 16-29). Bowman-Amuah does not teach or suggest terminating a context upon taking an action, essentially as claimed in claims 2, 17, and 34. Bowman-Amuah's grouping and unpacking of logically-related requests does not occur upon the taking of an action. Bowman-Amuah's grouping and unpacking of logically-related requests occurs after a network transmission. The network transmission is not an action dependent on an overall outcome (see claims 1, 16, and 33). Therefore, Bowman-Amuah fails to cure the deficiencies of Lamping. The combined teaching of Lamping and Bowman-Amuah fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 2, 17, and 34, respectively.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including claims 1-49 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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